

Mont. 17-41-18

John Higgins House (Site)

c. 1880

Poolesville (Vicinity)

Private

This small, one story log house contained two rooms downstairs, and none upstairs. Though similar in appearance to the houses of slaves and of landless families in southern Maryland and further south, it did have glass windows, a wood stove, and plank floors, features often lacking in the other houses. The fact that this was a landowner's house reveals that even those families lived in small, cramped houses.

Mont. : 17-41-'8

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Higgins House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Sugarland Lane

CITY, TOWN  
(Sugarland) Poolesville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES RESTRICTED

☐ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Tilghman Lee

Telephone #: 972-8454

STREET & NUMBER

Sugarland Lane

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 20837

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

courthouse-land records

Liber #: 458

Folio #: 188

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☒ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tilghman Lee describes this house as follows:

This log house had one story with a little taller attic than the other log houses. Its facade faced Sugarland Lane (east) with one door and a window with a double hung sash and 6 x 6 panes. There was another door in the north gable end, and in the back of the house there was a window. In plan there were two rooms downstairs, and none upstairs. Wood stoves were used with a brick chimney ascending through the middle of the house.

The logs were exposed and chinked in between with mud plaster. The log houses in Sugarland were whitewashed, and this one was no exception, according to Tilghman Lee.

Note: Interview with Tilghman Lee  
Sugarland Lane  
Poolesville Vicinity  
301-972-8454  
By George McDaniel

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Black History

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This one story log house was representative of the simplest and smallest of the dwellings built by the former slaves who founded the Black community at Sugarland. It is significant that even this house, the smallest of those built, contained two rooms and was heated by wood stoves and had glass windows, unlike the one room log houses of landless Black families in southern Maryland and further South. It is also significant that though the logs were not covered with weatherboards, they were whitewashed, which gave the house a more attractive appearance.

Due to the time limitations upon this preliminary survey, the Higgins family at Sugarland was not researched in the U.S. censuses.

The Deed EBP 21/446 shows that John Higgins purchased this property from Samuel Dyson in 1880. In 1872, Dyson had acquired it from Augustus P. Webb and Catherine Webb.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse  
Oral Interview, Tilghman Lee

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87 Stronghold

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

SITE: p. 118 : John Higgins House

LOCATION:

OWNER'S NAME: T. Lee

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

PROPERTY MAP: CR53

ACREAGE: 4

L/F: 458/188

HISTORY:

1) GRANTOR: Annie Adams

GRANTEE: Tilghman Lee

DATE: March 8, 1928 ACREAGE: no mention of how much land

Recorded April 13, 1928

MISC.: note: John Higgins deceased 1901 intestate  
left as his sole heirs 3 children 1) Annie Adams

both died instate leaving — 2) Sandy Higgins  
3) Charles Higgins

2) GRANTOR: Annie Adams as sole owner

GRANTEE:

DATE:

ACREAGE:

MISC.:

2) GRANTOR: Samuel Dyson

GRANTEE: John Higgins

DATE:

ACREAGE:

Recorded: Jan. 20, 1880

MISC.: L/F EBP 21/446

HISTORY CONTINUED

SITE: p. 118

Webb

3) GRANTOR: Samuel Dyson

GRANTEE: John and Catharine Higgins

DATE: Jan. 10, 1880

ACREAGE: 4 ac

recorded: Jan 20, 1880

MISC.:

4) GRANTOR: Augustus P Webb and Catharine E. Webb

GRANTEE: Samuel Dyson

DATE: June 12, 1872

ACREAGE: no mention of how much

MISC.: Aug. 14, 1872

land in acres, but lot # 3  
and called "Sugarland Forest"

GRANTOR:

GRANTEE:

DATE:

ACREAGE:

MISC.:

GRANTOR:

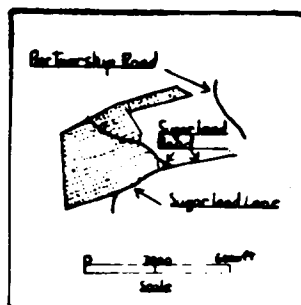
GRANTEE:

DATE:

ACREAGE:

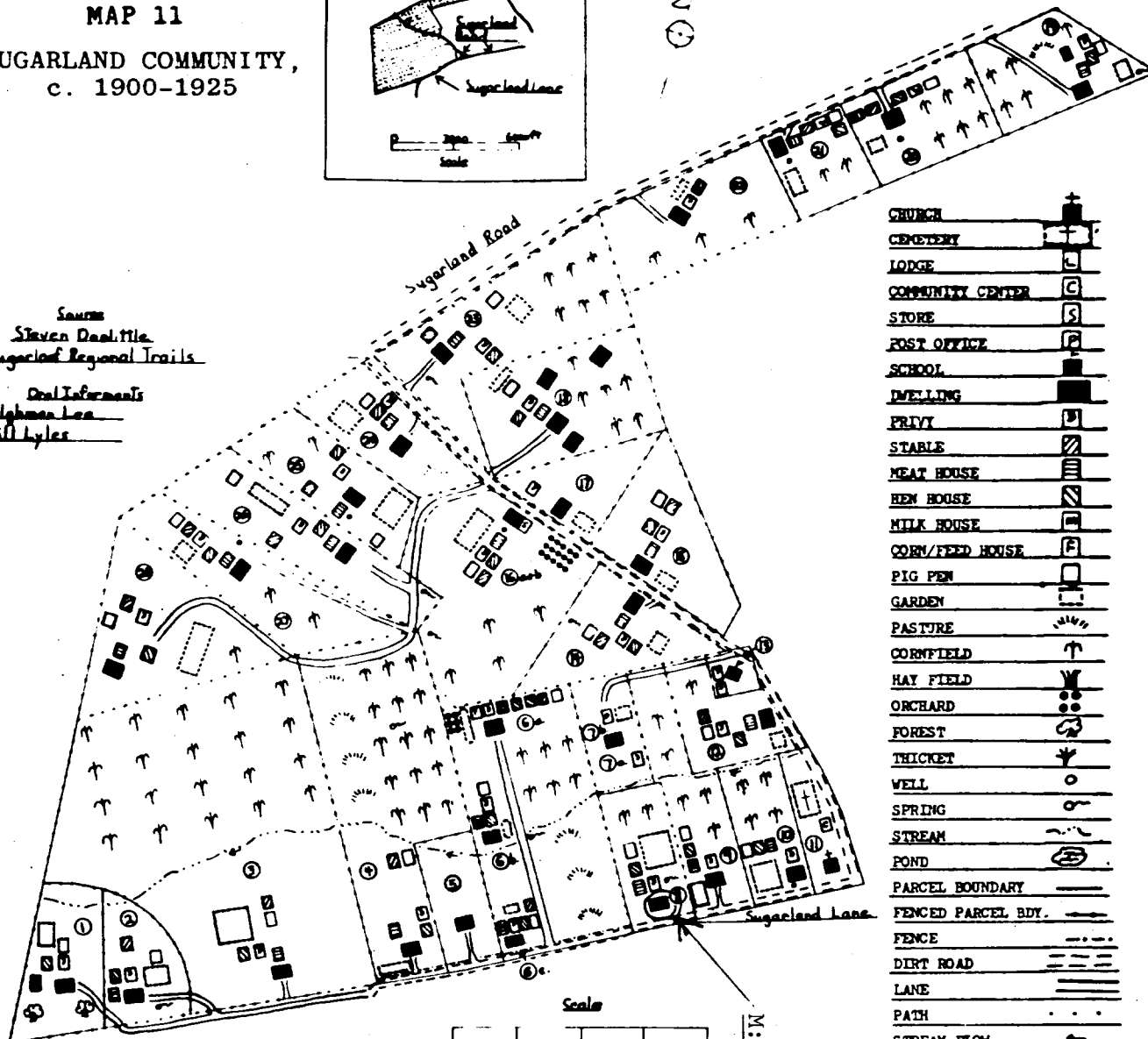
MISC.:

MAP 11  
SUGARLAND COMMUNITY,  
c. 1900-1925



Sources  
Steven Deal M.E.  
Sugarland Regional Trails

Oral Informants  
Tilghman Lea  
Bill Lyles



Scale  
0 300 600 900 1200 ft

M: 17-41-18

Key

CHURCH	
CEMETERY	
LODGE	
COMMUNITY CENTER	
STORE	
POST OFFICE	
SCHOOL	
DWELLING	
PRIVY	
STABLE	
MEAT HOUSE	
HEN HOUSE	
MILK HOUSE	
CORN/FEED HOUSE	
PIG PEN	
GARDEN	
PASTURE	
CORNFIELD	
HAY FIELD	
ORCHARD	
FOREST	
THICKET	
WELL	
SPRING	
STREAM	
POND	
PARCEL BOUNDARY	
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	
FENCE	
DIRT ROAD	
LANE	
PATH	
STREAM FLOW	

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

1. JAMES BECKWITH HSTD. 3.00 AC.
2. TILGHMAN BECKWITH HSTD. 4.00 AC.
3. JOHN ADAMS HSTD. 18.00 AC.
4. LEWIS GARNETT HSTD. 14.00 AC.
5. PETER JACKSON HSTD. 3.00 AC.
- 6a. PATRICK HEBRON HSTD. 17.00 AC.
- b. LUKE HEBRON HSTD.
- c. ROBERT HEBRON HSTD.
- 7a. NATHAN JOHNSON HSTD. 3.00 AC.
- b. POST OFFICE
8. JOHN HIGGINS HSTD. 4.00 AC.
9. JOE CURTIS HSTD. 6.00 AC.
10. BASIL DORSEY HSTD. 4.00 AC.
11. ST. PAUL'S M.E. CHURCH 1.00 AC.
12. HORACE JACKSON HSTD. 2.00 AC.
13. SUGARLAND SCHOOL 1.00 AC.
14. SAM BEANDER HSTD. 6.00 AC.
15. THOMAS NICHOLS HSTD. 10.00 AC.
- 16a. BENJAMIN SPARROUGH HSTD. 14.75 AC.
- b. SUGARLAND STORE
17. CHARLES JACKSON HSTD. 4.50 AC.
18. LUKE LYNCH & FAMILY HSTD. 10.00 AC.
19. WILLIAM TAYLOR HSTD. 3.00 AC.
20. LLOYD COATES HSTD. 4.00 AC.
21. SAMUEL JOHNSON HSTD. 4.00 AC.
22. JOHN DIGGS HSTD. 4.00 AC.
23. JOHN BRANISON HSTD. 11.00 AC.
24. RAF BRANISON HSTD. 6.00 AC.
25. PHILLIP JOHNSON HSTD. 6.00 AC.
26. ISAAC BELL HSTD. 10.00 AC.
27. SAMUEL LEE HSTD. 5.00 AC.
28. LEVI HALL HSTD. 10.00 AC.



STERLING QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA-MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 SENECA 15' QUADRANGLE

5562 III NE  
(GERMANTOWN)

291 25' 2310000 FEET (VA) 292 293 POOLESVILLE 3 MI 77°22'30" 39°07'30"

